NOTES
ON SOME
OLD ILLUSTRATED BOOKS
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It has been deemed expedient by the Library Committee to hold an exhibition of some of the more notable illustrated and rare books contained in the Library. Many of the Members are only familiar with the books as seen from outside the glass cases; by their being displayed, those interested will have the opportunity of becoming more familiar with their own property, and the Committee ventures to hope that Members and their professional friends will take this opportunity of inspecting these exhibits.

These notes, compiled by the Resident Librarian, Mr. W. Jones, may be of interest to Members of the Institution.

Sixteenth and seventeenth century works on Medicine are not of great rarity, although every year makes them more so, owing to the increasing demand, especially from America, for works by those who have done so much for the advancement of Medical Science.

For the present excellent condition of the books, as regards the bindings, the Library is indebted to the generosity of Mrs. E. R. Bickersteth, who gave a large donation especially for their renovation.

The exhibits are arranged mainly in four divisions, viz., works on Anatomy, Surgery, Midwifery, and Dermatology ; together with a few volumes in black letter and a series shown principally for the Authors' portraits, printed as a frontispiece to the books—a custom, from motives of modesty or otherwise, now fallen into disuse.

This note is only intended to describe a few of the important works, and is in no sense a catalogue.

Vesalius (1514-1564).

Among the works on Anatomy are those of Vesalius, named "The Father of Anatomy." He studied anatomy under Sylvius at Paris ; at the age of twenty-four he became Professor at Padua and taught his art from 1537 to 1544. His work, "De Humani Corporis Fabrica," first appeared in 1543. John Stephen de Calcar was the engraver of the plates and friend of the author.

The series opens with the skeleton. The Anatomist prided himself on his knowledge of the bones. It is said he was once closely blindfolded, and by his sense of touch recognised and named correctly every bone that was put into his hands. Then follows the muscular system ; these have been copied into almost every illustrated work on anatomy ; then follow the respiratory, circulatory, and nervous systems. Dr. Benjamin Ward Richardson says of this work :—

"The dissections and plates are the book ; the text is plain but is not inspired with new thought. The strangest of all facts in the text is the one fact that its author could have disclosed so much and not discovered more. The whole mechanism of the circulation—heart, arteries, veins, valves—he dissected them all, but to him they were dead; it required the genius of Harvey to see and describe the 'De Motu Cordis et Sanguinis.' The work was re-published in Germany, Holland, and in England. In 1725, Boerhaave and Albinus re-published the 'Opera Omnia.'" A copy of this edition is shown.

The issue of works relating to Vesalius is not yet finished. During the present year a beautifully illustrated work on this author, by J. M. Ball, has been purchased by the Library.

Carolus Stephanus (1504-1564).

In 1545, two years after the publication of the "De Humani Corporis Fabrica," a French physician named Charles Estienne (Carolus Stephanus), published a work descriptive of dissections.

The anatomy figured in this work appears to be little more than material for the fanciful designs of the draughtsman, who is said to have been Rosso de Rossi.

The work is a beautiful specimen of printing from a celebrated press. The engravings are interesting from the extraneous material, including furniture, landscape and architecture, introduced by the artist. Two editions are shown, 1545 and 1546.

Bartholomæus Eustachius (1520-74).

He studied anatomy in Rome. In the year 1562 he was Professor of Medicine in the Collegio della Sapienza at Rome. The plates are the first anatomical illustrations engraved on copper, and were completed in nine years after the first impression of the book of Vesalius. The entire text of the work is lost.

Eustachius was unable to publish his work, and for a hundred and thirty-eight years the plates remained in the family of Pinus, a friend of the Anatomist, or were buried in the Papal Library at Rome. When discovered they were presented by Pope Clement XI. to his physician, Lancisi, who published them with notes of his own in 1714. They were re-issued in 1740 ; an edition by Albinus was published in 1744 and 1774. Three editions are placed on view, viz., 1714, 1722 and 1761.

Antonius Leeuwenhoek (1632-1723).

He has been called the Founder of Histology. He had no title to be called Doctor, nor did he claim one.

Dr. Carpenter in the Ency. Brit., thought he was an optician or maker of lenses. Dr. Benjamin W. Richardson proves this theory to be wrong, for his commission as Beadle or Chamberlain to the Sheriff at Delft is still in existence. The salary was £26 a year, the duties were "to open and shut the door of the chamber . . . . to show honour and respect to the Councillors, to keep the chamber clean, to make the fires, and to do all that a good and faithful chamberlain should do." He held the post for thirty-nine years.

Not the sort of man to make original discoveries ; yet Peter the Great, Boerhaave and Bidloo called upon him to inspect his microscopes.

These instruments were all made with his own hands, even to the grinding of the lenses. An illustration of his microscope is figured in his "Opera," v. 2, page 177. He bequeathed twenty-six microscopes in a small cabinet to the Royal Society. These are now lost.

He demonstrated the circulation of the blood, in the rabbit's ear, the bat's wing, the tadpole and the frog ; described the structure of bone, and explained the fibrous structure of the white matter of the brain. From his own teeth he extracted a white substance which, mixed with pure rain-water, showed some kind of small animalcules, the motions of which were "very pleasing to behold." He examined the spermatozoa from whales to spiders, and contested the theory of spontaneous generation.

The Royal Society of London, during a period of fifty years, received from him three hundred and seventy-five letters and papers.

Godefridus Bidloo (1649-1713).

The "Anatomia Humani Corporis" (1685) is a very fine example of beautiful drawing, modelling and shading. It is, in the opinion of the writer, one of the most noble folios in the Library. The printing and paper, bound in the original boards, are as crisp and bright to-day as when issued. An eminent painter, G. de Lairesse, made the drawings; and the engraver, A. Blooteling (?) shows equal talent. Most of the plates were annexed by William Cowper to illustrate a work published by him in 1697.

John Browne (1642-1700).

This folio on the muscles was published in London, 1698. It is inferior in comparison with the earlier volumes on anatomy. The attitude of the figures is inartistic and they are badly drawn. Each stands on a pedestal, displaying or holding portions of his anatomy without apparent inconvenience. The plates are of interest, the parts being engraved with their names.

William Chesleden (1688-1752).

His "Anatomy of the Human Body" was first published in 1713. This ran through eleven editions, and was for many years the anatomist's Vade Mecum.

He was the first foreign member of the Royal Academy of Surgery in Paris. The "Osteographia" was published in

1733, and is a magnificent example of engraving. It contains many "life-like" drawings of the skeleton, and of the comparative anatomy of the bones.

Antonius Scarpa (1747-1832).

At the age of twenty-two he was elected from Padua, the University in which he studied, to the Professorship of Anatomy in the University of Modena. After a short period he was elected Professor of Anatomy at Pavia, his age at election being thirty-seven.

He was the author of works on the organs of hearing and smell, on the nerves, on the principal diseases of the eye, on aneurism, on hernia, with memoirs on other subjects and on practical surgery. His "Tabulæ Neurologicæ" here shown was published in 1794, and is dedicated to the Royal Society of London.

Paolo Mascagni (1752-1815).

This is the largest book, in the Library; it is described as elephant folio. The smallest is placed beside it for comparison. The following is a quotation from a review of the work written in 1825 :—

> "The editors propose to publish the whole work in nine "fasciculi, containing forty-four plates; a fasciculus to "appear annually . . . . they pledge themselves for "its completion in the manner and time they have promised, "and on the other hand require an engagement from the "subscribers to take their copies at the stipulated price as "they are published.
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> "A few copies only will be coloured, and of these the "price will be about 100 guineas for the whole work."

At the present day, if a member of the Institution had the temerity to enter for purchase such a volume in the proposal book, the Library Committee's feelings could only be expressed in one word—"Rejected."

The beautiful folios of Antonius et Caldani, 4 vols. 1801; Tiedemann, 1822; Cowper, 1737, and Haller, 1743 and 1756, will be found worthy of inspection.

Surgery.

Among the works shown on this subject are Berengario, 1535; Phioravanti (black letter), 1580; Paré (the original edition), 1582; Guydos (black letter), 1579; Read, 1635; Hildanus, 1646; Hieronymus, 1647; Peter Lowe, 1654; Scultetus, 1669; Wiseman, 1676; Charriere, 1712; Cheselden, 1723; Heister, 1739; Dionis, 1740; Bell, 1806; Scarpa, 1812; Bourgery, 1831, and Stanley, 1849.

In the work of Phioravanti, page 32, the "Cure of one that had his nose cut off and set on again" is worthy of perusal as an example of urgent surgery.

Peter Lowe (1550-1612).

The modest octavo of Peter Lowe, 1654, the first edition being published in 1597, is the first original systematic treatise on the "Whole Course of Chirurgerie" printed in the English language. In thus breaking with traditional usage and writing in the vulgar tongue he seems to have exposed himself to much vituperation, this emancipation of Surgery from the dead languages not being approved of by many members who were already within a close profession.

Ambroise Paré (1510-90).

Three editions of the author are on view, viz:—the original in Latin, printed at Paris in 1582, and Johnson's Translations, 1649 and 1665.

The works of Paré comprise twenty-nine books and three tracts included in one volume; but Chirurgery stands first—"it is the most evident among all the parts of Physic, it is the most ancient, and, if the difficulty of learning it be a proof of the excellence of the art, who can doubt that it is the most excellent?"

The plates are included, with and without acknowledgment, in most of the works on Surgery of this period. The book is one of the best text-books on the subject ever written by one man. It is full of original observations. Many of these have been published as original, for example Calot's operation for the treatment of Pott's disease is figured, as is also a parasitic fœtus, of which a similar abnormality was shown a few years ago at the Pathological Society of London, and a drawing is included in their transactions.

The system of surgery by Bourgery, published 1831-40, in seven folio volumes of plates, is probably the largest illustrated work on the subject. The plates are drawn by Jacob, and printed in colours by lithographic process.

Midwifery.

The earliest book on this subject in the Library is entitled "De Conceptu et Generatione Hominis," by Jacobus Rueff, 1554. It is very rare, and contains woodcuts of the positions of the fœtus, monsters and prodigies, also the Birth Stool, formerly carried by the midwife in going to her labours. Bound with the volume is an interesting book in German, entitled "Concerning all manner of wonderful creatures of the earth, air and water, for the use of painters, goldsmiths, along with other artists, printed at Frankfort on the Main, by Cyriacus Jacobus, 1546."

"The Expert Midwife, or an excellent and most necessary treatise of the generation and birth of Man. Compiled in Latine by the industry of James Rueff, a learned and expert Chirurgeon; and now translated into English for the general good and benefit of this nation. London, 1637."

"The Birth of Mankynde," by Thomas Raynalde, published in 1540, is perhaps the most interesting, as it was the first printed book on Midwifery in the English language. There are fourteen editions of the book, from 1540 to 1576. The Library copy is dated 1598. The book is very rare; there are only about fifty copies known. A full account of the book and its contents was printed in the "British Journal of Gynæcology," 1906-7, by Dr. J. W. Ballantyne. A reprint presented by the author is in the Library.

Mauriceau.

This work was published in 1681, and Hugh Chamberlen's translations in 1716 and 1752. Chamberlen was a famous man-midwife. He brought the forceps from the Continent; these he literally kept "up his sleeve," acquired a large fortune and a tomb in Westminster Abbey.

William Smellie (1697-1763).

His book, 1761, contains many fine engravings. He improved the midwifery forceps, suggested and performed new operations in obstetric practice.

William Hunter (1718-1783).

Dr. Benjamin Ward Richardson concludes a biographical sketch of William Hunter by estimating the characters of the brothers:

"William is great in anatomy; John takes up the scalpel in imitation. William enquires into the causes ot animal functions; John takes up the same points. William has a longing to found a great museum; John is after William again, and, having the good fortune to live ten years longer, does ten years' more work. The Brothers Hunter were twins in science, and William was the first-born."

There is a signature of William Hunter on a lecture certificate in the Institution collection. His great work, "Anatomia Uteri Humani Gravidi," 1774, was printed by Baskerville, at Birmingham. Printing is another story, but Baskerville was one of England's foremost printers, and his work is held in the highest estimation by experts and collectors. During his career he is said to have been a footman, calligrapher, stone-cutter, painter, japanner, tamer of a shrew, terrible infidel ; yet the printer of three Bibles, nine books of Common Prayer, two Greek Testaments, etc. The only medical work he printed was the "Gravid Uterus."

By the side of the original edition is placed the re print issued by the New Sydenham Society. These plates are also printed in Antonius et Caldani, and as the paper of this work is beautiful and white, the plates are equal to those of the original edition. The rest of the exhibits in this section show the progress of obstetrics by means of illustrations. The obstetric tables, by Spratt, are an example of super-imposed plates.

Many of these references are taken from a paper by Williamson Anderson (British Medical Journal, v. 2, 1895), and the "Asclepiad," by Dr. Benjamin Ward Richardson.